

# MODERN COMICS

APRIL  
No 96

QUALITY  
PUBLICATION  
10¢

Who is the exotic *Spectra*?

Can her scheming terrorists overcome  
the mighty Knights of the Air?

*Read the MOST EXCITING  
BLACKHAWK STORY YET!*







WEB COMIC  
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GANG TONIGHT AT  
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☐ Mickey Mouse  
☐ Minnie Mouse  
☐ Donald Duck  
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( ) Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman the price plus C.O.D. postage.  
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**SPECTRA: RAIDER, ROBBER AND WRECKER! WHERE IS SHE? EVERYWHERE... AND NOWHERE! BY LAND, WATER AND AIR, THE BLACKHAWKS PURSUED SPECTRA AND HER SPECTRAL TROOP OF TERRORISTS, TO NO AVAIL UNTIL... BUT GO ON WITH THE STORY...**

**DANGER STRIKES WITHOUT WARNING AT THE FASHIONABLE SEASIDE RESORT OF TRITON BEACH!**



**A MOMENT LATER, ON TRITON BEACH'S MAIN STREET!**



**LOOK, SPECTRA! ALL THIS FROM ONE SHOP! FORM A PATROL AND GO TO THE BIG HOTELS! THEY HAVE VAULTS FULL OF MONEY... WEALTHY PATRONS WITH VALUABLES!**

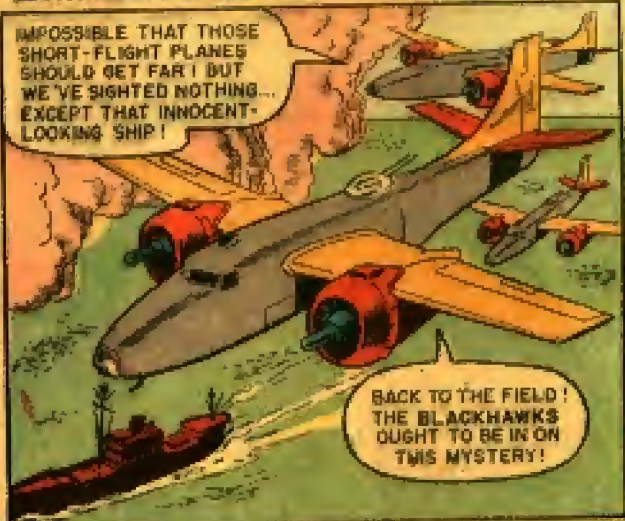




**W**ITHIN BRIEF MINUTES THE EFFICIENT DESPERADOES FINISH THEIR WORK OF PLUNDER...



**B**UT, THOUGH PURSUERS SCOUT FAR AND WIDE...



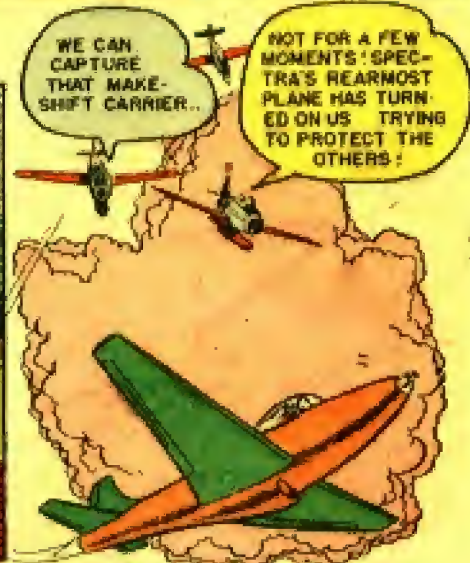
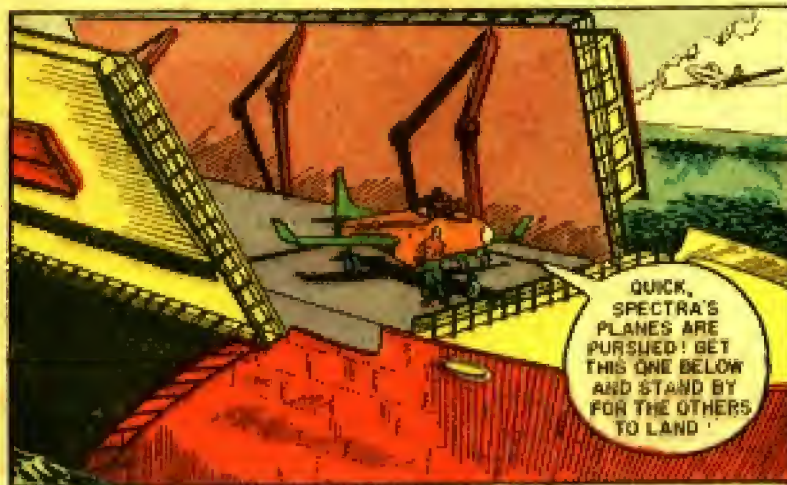
**A**ND THE BLACKHAWKS ARE CALLED IN...



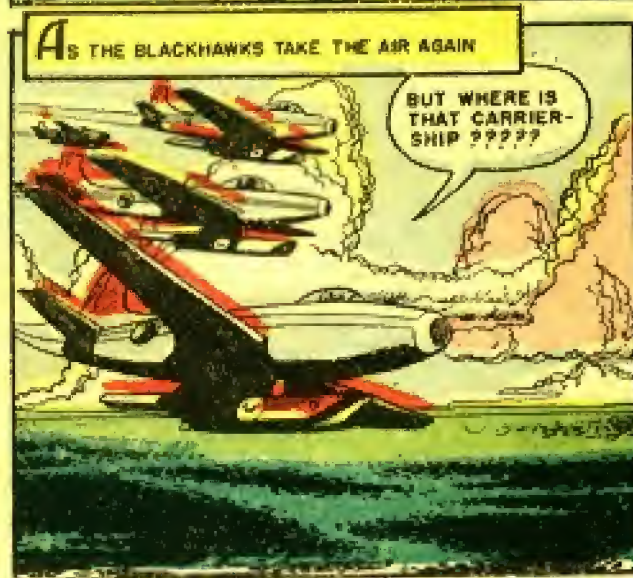




**B** BLACKHAWK'S QUICK EYE HAS SEEN THAT THE SHIP IS EQUIPPED TO ACT AS A PLANE CARRIER







IN PRIVATE, THE BLACKHAWKS INTERVIEW THEIR PRISONER







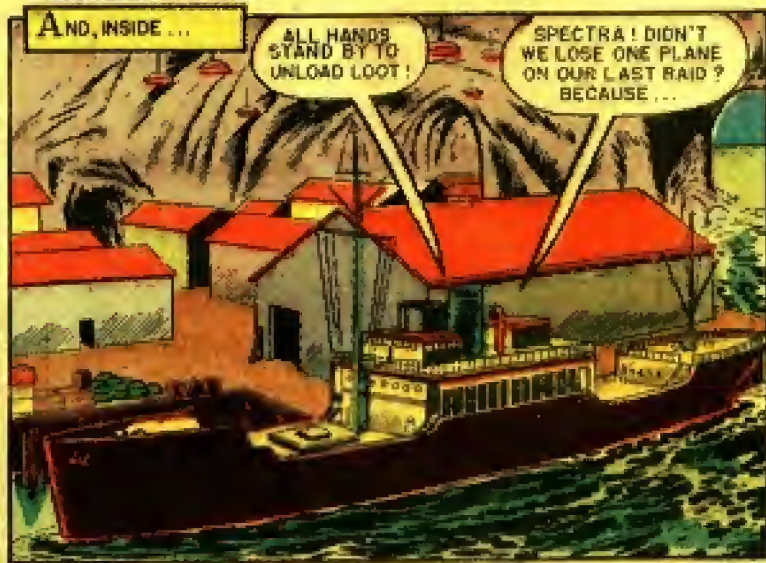


THE SHIP DRIVES INTO THE ISLAND'S INTERIOR...



WITHIN BRIEF MINUTES THE TIDES WILL RISE AND HIDE THIS OPENING!

AND, INSIDE...



ALL HANDS STAND BY TO UNLOAD LOOT!

SPECTRA! DIDN'T WE LOSE ONE PLANE ON OUR LAST RAID? BECAUSE...



...IT'S BACK WITH US! WE BROUGHT BACK ONE MORE PLANE THAN WE HAD TO START WITH!

CHECK UP AT ONCE! IF THAT'S TRUE, BRING THE PILOT OF THE EXTRA PLANE BEFORE ME!



I SAW A STRANGER HEADING THIS WAY!

HERE I AM, IN SPECTRA'S DEN! THE NEXT PROBLEM IS HOW TO GET OUT!



THERE HE GOES! IT'S A STRANGER ALL RIGHT, IN A BLUE UNIFORM!

MAYBE I'D BETTER TURN SUB-MARINE!



THOSE DIVERS ARE CUTTING ME OFF FROM ESCAPE!

WHEN BLACKHAWK COMES TO THE SURFACE...



YOU'RE OUR PRISONER! COME WITH US BEFORE OUR CHIEF... SPECTRA!

WHO COULD REFUSE AN INVITATION SO EARNESTLY OFFERED? LEAD THE WAY!





WE'RE HONORED BY THIS VISIT! I RECOGNIZE THE FAMOUS BLACKHAWK!

YOU FLATTER ME! AND I'VE HEARD A FEW REPORTS OF YOU, SPECTRA! BUT NOBODY COULD HAVE GUESSED AT THIS TIDE-HIDDEN HEADQUARTERS!



IF EVEN YOU HAD TROUBLE FINDING US, THEN WE CAN HOPE TO ESCAPE OTHER SEARCHERS!

IF YOU LIKE LIVING LIKE WATER-BEETLES IN THIS DAMP CAVE, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING!



OH, THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT! WE LOOK TOWARD A FAIRLY HAPPY AND FREE FUTURE! COME AND SEE WHAT I MEAN!

YOUR FOLLOWERS DON'T SEEM INCLINED TO ALLOW ME ANY EXCUSE FROM YOUR ENTERTAINMENT!



HERE'S PART OF WHAT WE'VE TAKEN FROM HALF A DOZEN TOWNS! SOON WE'LL DOUBLE IT TRIPLE IT... AND THEN

THEN WHAT WILL YOU BUY WITH SO GREAT A HORDE OF LOOT?



YOU HAVE HEARD THAT THE NATION OF FORDNOY SEEKS A LOAN! IT'S CRISIS! IT IS ALMOST RUINED!

BUT IF YOU LEND FORDNOY ALL THIS MONEY, HOW WILL YOU HOPE TO GET IT BACK?



WHO SAID WE'D GET IT BACK? FORDNOY WILL BE IN OUR DEBT! THE FORDNOY GOVERNMENT WILL OBEY OUR ORDERS!

AND YOU AND YOUR MOB OF THIEVES BE A POWER IN WORLD POLITICS, EH? VERY CLEVER, SPECTRA... BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE LITTLE FLAW IN THE PLAN!

I AM BUT ONE OF THE BLACK-HAWK FIGHTING TEAM! MY FRIENDS WILL COME HERE, AS I DID!

VERY PROBABLE! THAT'S WHY I'VE KEPT YOU A LIVING CAPTIVE INSTEAD OF DESTROYING YOU ON THE SPOT!





OVERHEAD, IN THE UPPER AIR...



YOU CAME AMONG US IN ONE OF MY PLANES YOU CAPTURED! WELL, IF YOUR FRIENDS FOLLOW, THEY'LL NOT DARE ATTACK, FOR FEAR THAT I WILL KILL YOU!

SPECTRA, A REPORT FROM THE SCOUTS ABOVE THE WATERLINE! BLACKHAWK PLANES ARE BUZZING THE ISLAND!



THOSE PLANES HAVE SPOTTED THIS ISLAND! LET'S SHOOT THEM DOWN!



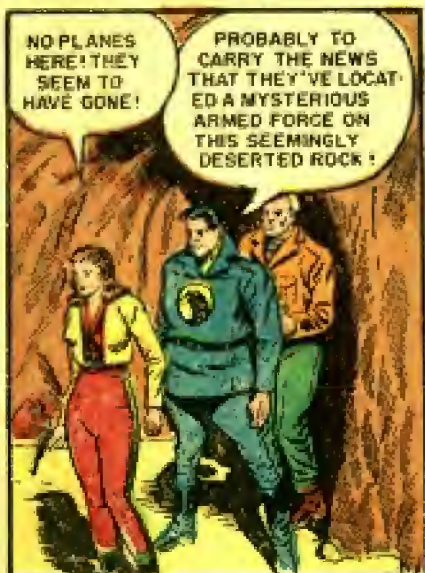
CAN'T SCORE A HIT!

BUT THEY CAN UNLESS WE RUN!



THE BLACKHAWK PLANES ARE ATTACKING! WE DAREN'T SHOW OUR FACES UP ABOVE THEY SHOOT AT EVERYONE!

I'LL GIVE THEM A FACE TO SHOOT AT! BRING THIS CAPTIVE UP TOPSIDE!



NO PLANES HERE! THEY SEEM TO HAVE GONE!

PROBABLY TO CARRY THE NEWS THAT THEY'VE LOCATED A MYSTERIOUS ARMED FORCE ON THIS SEEMINGLY DESERTED ROCK!



THEY'LL CARRY NO SUCH NEWS! HERE, TIE HIM TO THAT SPLINTER OF ROCK... AND BRING ME THE MICROPHONE AND TURN ON BROADCAST POWER!

AT ONCE!



CALLING ALL BLACK-HAWKS! DID YOU MISS SEEING YOUR BRAVE LEADER? HE'S BOUND AND HELPLESS... ON TOP OF THIS ISLAND! IF YOU DON'T SAVE HIM, HE DIES WITHIN THE HOUR!







MODERN COMICS



BLACKHAWK'S BONDS HOLD... BUT A SUPREME EFFORT CAUSES THE ROCK TO CRUMBLE...

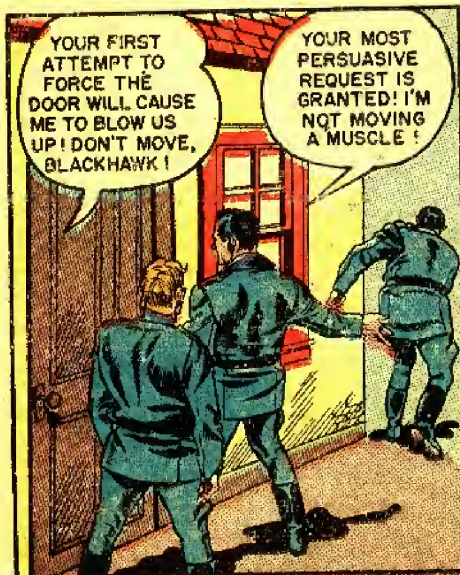




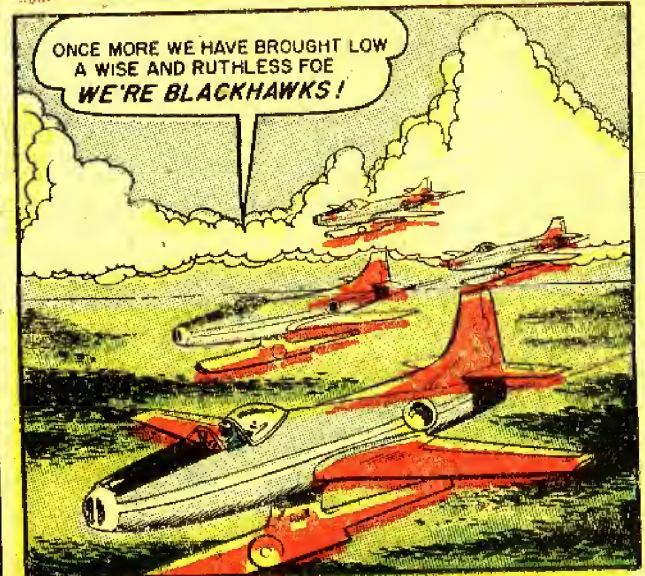
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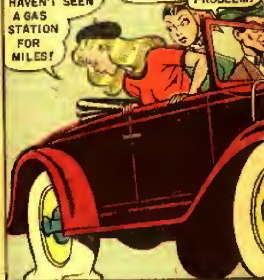
# Torchy



THERE IS A SMALL CITY NEAR BOSTON THAT'S KNOWN AS THE VILLAGE OF GOD! SO LISTEN MY CHILDREN AND YOU SHALL HEAR HOW THAT PROPER CITY WAS SET ON ITS EAR BY THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF MISS TORCHY TODD!



GOODNESS, ED, YOU DON'T HAVE A SPARE OR A JACK AND I HAVEN'T SEEN A GAS STATION FOR MILES!



RELAX, TORCHY! AN ENTERPRISING FELLOW LIKE MYSELF CAN SOLVE ANY PROBLEM!



WE MIGHT AS WELL SIT THIS ONE OUT, TORCHY, UNTIL ED ENTERPRISES US OUT OF HERE!

DON'T FRET, MY CHICKADEES! I'LL FLAG A CAR IN A MINUTE! JUST WATCH MY PERSONALITY AT WORK!



THAT MINUTE HAS LASTED AN HOUR AND A HALF, PERSONALITY BOY! MAYBE IF YOU HAD NIGER LEGS...



I'M GETTING AWFULLY CRAMPED, SITTING HERE! I THINK I'LL GET OUT AND STRETCH MY LEGS!

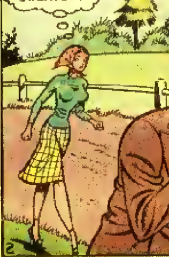
DON'T WANDER OFF TOO FAR, HONEY!



I WON'T, TESS!

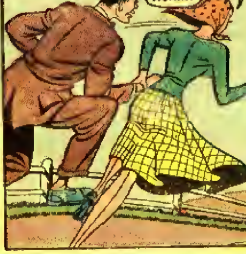


I ALWAYS WORRY ABOUT THAT GIRL WHEN SHE WEARS A SWEATER!



SAY, THAT LOOKS LIKE A TRAFFIC JAM DOWN THE ROAD!

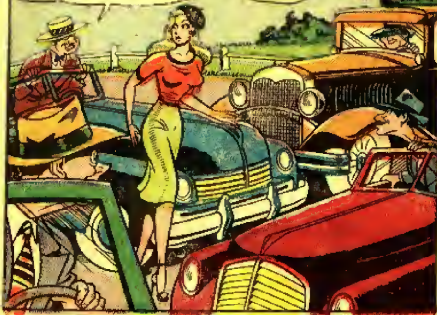
G'MON, ED! I HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION THAT TORCHY TODD, GIRL ROADBLOCK, HAS DONE IT AGAIN!





YOU ARE THE MOMENT I HAVE WAITED FOR, THE MATE THAT FATE HAD ME CREATED FOR!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A BETTER REASON FOR A TRAFFIC JAM!



I SAY, IT WOULD GIVE ME QUITE A LIFT IF YOU RODE WITH ME! I CAN OFFER YOU FLUID DRIVE, SMOOTH KNEE ACTION, FOAM RUBBER UPHOLSTERY AND A BACK SEAT EQUIPPED WITH HOT AND COLD RUNNING TELEVISION!



I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE! YOU'RE FLOUNDER N. CHIPS III!

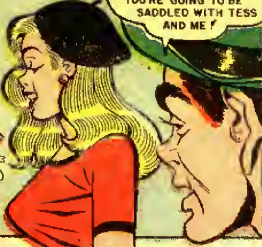
ALL THIS AND TELEVISION, TOO! IN BEHALF OF MISS TODD, WE ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!



I HAD HOPED THAT WE COULD BE ALONE TOGETHER, SO THAT YOU COULD TELL ME YOUR DREAMS AND I COULD TELL YOU MINE!



SORRY, BUT WE'RE A COMBINATION OFFER... THREE FOR THE PRICE OF ONE! IF YOU GIVE TORCHY A RIDE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SADDLED WITH TESS AND ME!



DON'T MENTION THE WORD "SADDLE" TO ME! IT REMINDS ME OF MY PROBLEM!



YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD SPORT ABOUT GIVING US A LIFT! MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU OUT!

WELL, YOU SEE, I LET MATER TALK ME INTO SOMETHING THAT'S AWFULLY SILLY! I HAVE TO DRESS UP AS PAUL REVERE TONIGHT AND TAKE A MIDNIGHT RIDE ON HORSEBACK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AN ORPHANS' HOME!

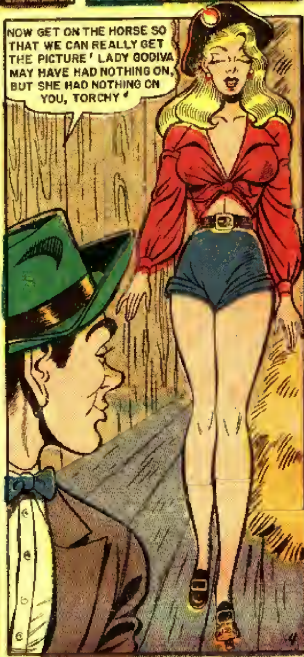


THAT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE LOADS OF FUN!

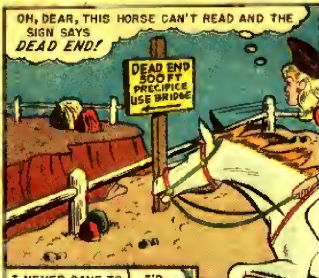
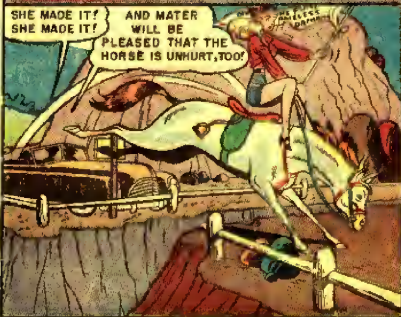
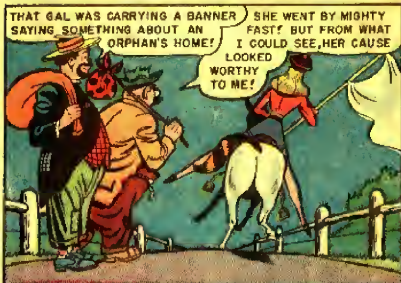
OH, THERE MUST BE BETTER WAYS THAN THAT TO HAVE FUN!



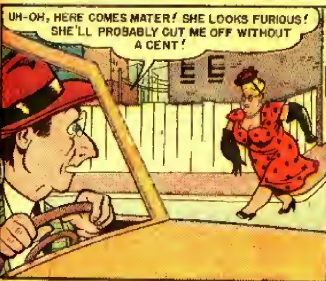
















GOSH, THAT'S TOO BAD! I MEAN IT'S--

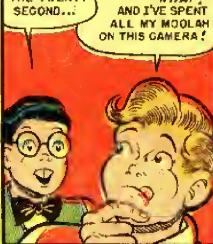
SAY-- JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- TOO BAD?

WELL, I STOPPED IN TO TELL YOU THAT MY POP'S LODGE IS HAVING A FORMAL DANCE AT THE COUNTRY CLUB ON THE TWENTY-SECOND...

WHAT? AND I'VE SPENT ALL MY MOOLAH ON THIS CAMERA!

I'LL NEED A TUX AND MONEY FOR TICKETS! GOSH-- I CAN'T ASK DAD FOR THAT MUCH!

I'VE AN IDEA! WHY NOT MAKE THE CAMERA PAY FOR IT?



LOOK, THERE ON THE CAMERA PAGE-- LUGGETT'S DRUG STORE IS HAVING A PHOTO CONTEST!

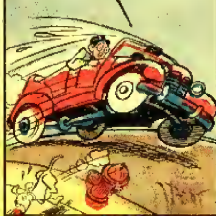
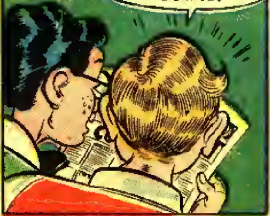
YEAH-- "MISS LUGGETT'S OF 1950!"

WINNER TO BE NAMED ON THE TWENTY-SECOND! THAT'S THE SAME DAY OF THE DANCE!

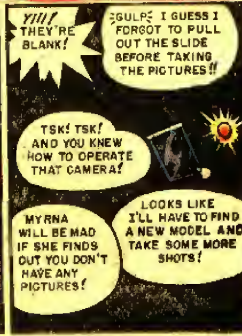
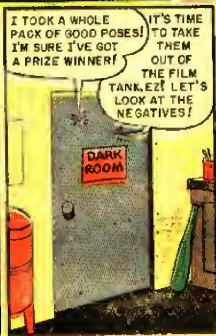
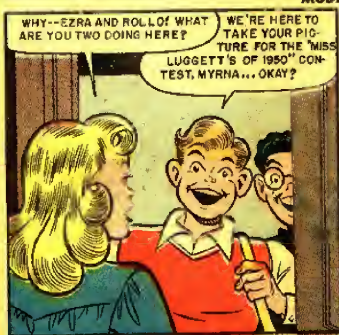
G'MON, ROLLO, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?

WH-WHERE ARE WE GOIN'?

TO MYRNA'S TO PHOTOGRAPH "MISS LUGGETT'S OF 1950" AND TO GET A DATE FOR THAT DANCE!









LATER...

WHAT ARE WE DOING AT THE DEPOT, EZ? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIND A NEW MODEL!

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE ARE DOING, ROLLO.. WE MAY FIND SOME NEW TALENT HERE! ALL THE LOCAL GIRLS MUST HAVE BEEN ENTERED IN THE CONTEST BY NOW!

MANORVILLE

OH, PARDON ME... CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO THIS ADDRESS? IT'S MY MOTHER'S HOUSE!

ER--A--YES, MA'M... THAT'S MRS. ANDERSON'S PLACE! WE'RE GOING RIGHT BY THERE... CAN WE GIVE YOU A LIFT?

SAY-- EZ, MAYBE SHE MIGHT POSE FOR YOU.. SHE HAS POSSIBILITIES!

AW, CUT IT OUT, ROLLO.. SHE'S DEFINITELY NOT THE TYPE! NO GLAMOUR!



HERE YOU ARE, MISS ANDERSON! THAT'S YOUR MOTHER'S HOUSE...

OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH, EZRA! PERHAPS I CAN DO YOU A FAVOR SOMETIME!

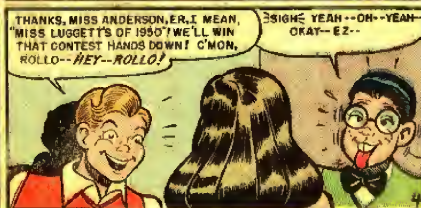
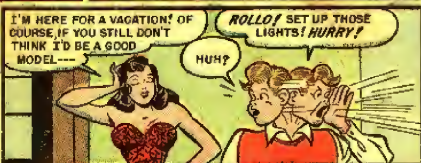
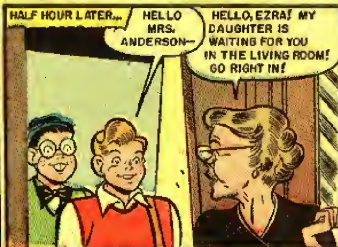
ER--THERE IS, MISS, ONLY EZRA WOULDN'T ASK YOU-- Y'SEE WE NEED A PHOTO FOR A CONTEST AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO--

--YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO POSE FOR YOU? I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S WHY I'M HERE-- TO GET AWAY FROM LIGHTS AND CAMERAS-- ER-- THAT IS--

C'MON, ROLLO, I DON'T THINK SHE'D WIN, ANYWAY-- ER--ZULP! I MEAN--ZULP!









I GOT MY TUX THIS MORNING, ROLLO! AND I GOT IT WITHOUT PAYING A DEPOSIT, EITHER! I CONVINCED HIM I'D WIN THE PHOTO CONTEST TODAY!

OF COURSE, LEAVING YOUR NEW CAMERA THERE AS SECURITY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, HUH? C'MON, EZ, LET'S GET OVER TO LUGGETT'S!

THE BIG DAY ARRIVES...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE JUST CHOSEN OUR "MISS LUGGETT'S OF 1950"! THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE PRIZE WINNING PHOTO IS EZRA JONES!

'RAY!' 'RAY!' 'RAY!' FOR EZRA!

Luggett's  
DRUG STORE

OH, EZRA--WE'VE WON! WE'VE WON THE CONTEST! I'M MISS LUGGETT'S OF 1950! SIGH!

YEAH--WE--WE? YIPES! MYRNA! LISTEN--I--I--

LET ME SEE THE PRIZE WINNING PICTURE!

HEY, EZ, WHO'S YOUR MODEL?

WOW! WHAT A BEAUTY!

BEEN KEEPIN' HER A SECRET, EH, EZRA?

GOSH--EZRA MUST HAVE TAKEN A BETTER PICTURE OF ME THAN I THOUGHT--I'LL GO LOOK AT IT!

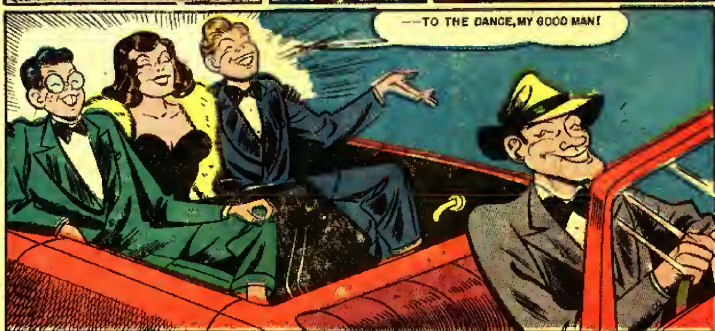
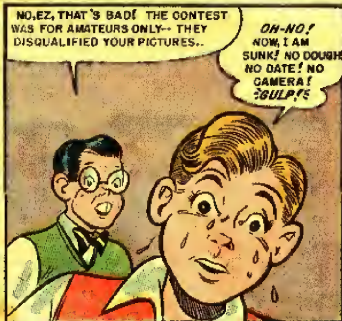
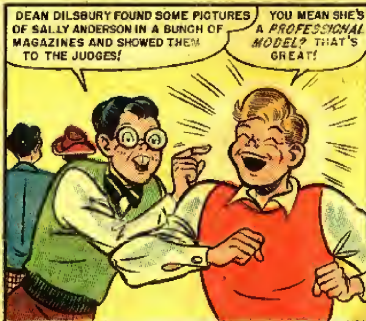
UGH! THAT'S NOT ME! EZRA JONES, YOU'RE A LOW-DOWN TWO-TIMER! YOU SAID I'D WIN THIS CONTEST AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ONE PICTURE OF ME! YOU--YOU--I WOULDN'T GO TO THAT DANCE WITH YOU NOW OR EVER!

BUT--BUT, MYRNA, I CAN EXPLAIN! AW...

I'LL GET DEAN DILSBURY TO TAKE ME TO THE DANCE, YOU BLUEBEARD!

GLOOM SIGH! NOW MYRNA'S MAD AT ME--OH--WELL--AT LEAST I WON THE CONTEST!







# Dinner For BLACKHAWK

**CAPTAIN DREVITT** used to say that if you want a thing well done, you should do it yourself. So he did plenty of things himself, even though he commanded a large horde of picked rascals who lived and grew prosperous by a global policy of loot and piracy. They terrorized the Twentieth Century as pirates like Blackbeard terrorized the Eighteenth Century. They swindled, robbed, destroyed. They faced and fought small parties of brave men, and cleverly avoided battle with big parties. Submarines, airplanes, gas bombs and all the best scientific methods were their weapons. They sought their loot on every continent and in every ocean. They were an accommodating and easily pleased gang of criminals. They would tackle anything, so long as it meant profit.

But lately the Blackhawks had taken an interest in them. And the last three adventures had resulted in unprofitable failure for Captain Drevitt's modern pirate gang. A counter-attack had driven them away from the very doors of the International Bank in the seaside town of Costa Rubia. The attempt to kidnap and hold for ransom the crown prince of Kartusk had been defeated by the Blackhawk planes, and those who had escaped were lucky to be alive. And when an unscrupulous political adventurer bribed Drevitt to destroy the Central American vehicular tunnel, the Blackhawks had learned of it in advance and spoiled that little triumph too.

Therefore, said Captain Drevitt, the Blackhawks must be removed. And he proposed to start at the top, with their leader, Blackhawk himself.

Disguised in white wig, spectacles and costly tweeds, Drevitt pretended to be an amiable old scholar and admirer of Blackhawk. He introduced himself when they met at a state reception in an inland city, and Blackhawk was modest but friendly as Drevitt chattered about his admiration for the great fighting team for world safety and justice.

"Blackhawk," he said, "I dare not hope that you'd honor me by coming to dinner at my apartment tonight."

"Why, I'd be charmed, sir," said Blackhawk cordially. "Who else will be present?"

"Just the two of us, Sir. That way, I can hear more freely some of your thrilling adventures."

"I'll come, professor, but please don't depend

on me for anything entertaining," said Blackhawk, and they parted. Drevitt hurried away to his slum headquarters where a group of his most desperate killers waited. They wore the red jackets and low-pulled hats of Drevitt's company, and eagerly they listened to their captain's orders.

"I want you in the back room, ready for my signal gong," said Drevitt. "No foolish, clumsy stuff about poison or guns for Blackhawk. But I've arranged for him to come alone, and he'll never return. Once he's gone, his bunch of bullies can be easily dealt with."

At Drevitt's apartment, Blackhawk appeared and the two sat down to a pleasant repast. Despite his modest disclaimer of being entertaining, Blackhawk talked well—so well that it was with a sigh of regret that Drevitt picked up the little silver hammer on the table and struck the gong.

At once three doors opened on three sides of the room. Through them loomed huge, red-jacketed, slouch-hatted figures.

"Who are these strangers?" asked Blackhawk, sitting up straight in his chair.

"They're strangers to you, but friends to me," said Drevitt.

"What do you mean, sir?"

Drevitt grinned. He had taken off his wig and spectacles. "You're my prisoner, Blackhawk."

"I'm afraid not," said Blackhawk calmly. "It's the other way around. Grab him, men."

The big fellows entered. Dropping jackets and hats, they appeared in Blackhawk uniform. Drevitt rose and grabbed for a weapon, but Andre on one side, Chuck on the other, subdued him.

"The only trouble," said Blackhawk, "was to get you to do something to confirm my suspicion that you were Drevitt. My friends saw your red jackets heading here, followed and overpowered them and took their places. But not until the moment you thought you had trapped me did you give yourself away."

Drevitt, raging, tried to think of some insult to hurl at his successful enemy. But he could think of nothing. Nothing would do any good, anyway.

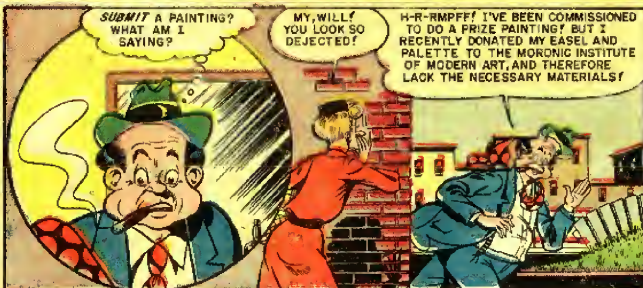
"Turn him over to the authorities," said Blackhawk. "His rule of riot and plunder is at an end."



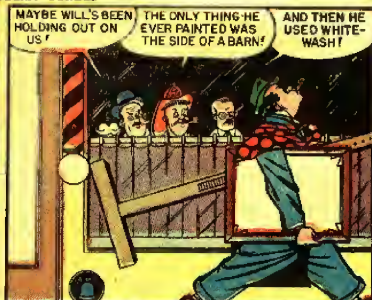
# Will BRAGG













MEANWHILE OUTSIDE...

GO GETTA DA MUN'  
AND I GIVA YOU  
DA BANAN'!



WHY DID I HAVE TO SHOOT OFF MY  
BIG MOUTH?



HOLY MACKEREL! LET'S CALL THIS THE  
FINISH AND GET THROUGH WITH IT!  
PHEW! I'M GOING DOWNSTAIRS  
TO RELAX!



YOU REST HERE AWHILE, AND I'LL GO UPSTAIRS  
AND PACK THE MASTERPIECE!

OKAY, I'LL FOLLOW  
YOU RIGHT UP!

WHY DOESN'T SHE PACK  
HERSELF OFF TO THE  
NEXT COUNTRY?



MEANWHILE UPSTAIRS...

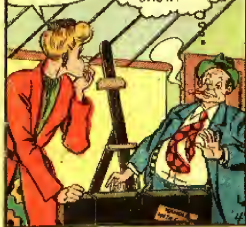


WILL'S RARE GENIUS IS  
NEVER UNDERSTOOD!



CAN'T I GO  
WITH YOU,  
WILL,  
DARLING?

NO! I'LL GO  
ALONE!  
THIS ISN'T GOING  
TO BE A FREAK  
SHOW!











Just a few of the Records of  
**George F. Jowett**

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- World's weight lifting champion of 19
- Reputed to have the strongest arms in the world
- Four times winner of the world's most perfectly developed body - gives many other world records!

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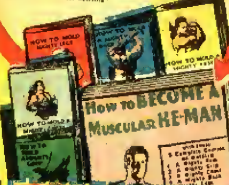
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